

020440E ANDREW
PROVIDENCE, R.I. | WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Andrew O'Connor

Providence, R.I. and
Washington, D.C.

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



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<http://archive.org/details/statuesofabrahamolinc>

Providence, Rhode Island

not disinterested

Andres O'Conner's Providence, Rhode Island monument to the Emancipator portrays him seated on a sort of modernistic bench -- his attitude here is sad and thoughtful, almost dejected. One knotted and expressively quiet hand rests on the seat beside him. A heavy cloak drapes the figure.

The work which is intended for the grounds at the state capitol at Providence, was exhibited in Paris prior to its removal here.

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Lincoln Statue - Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Hedgesburg Road, Md.

Sculptor - O'Connor

PHOTOGRAPH BY —
Del Ankers
1122 VERMONT AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
NATIONAL 3748

A-19



State of New York
by James O'Connor
County of Westchester

Wash DC



Letter to Mr. John G. ...
O'Connor

My dear Sir,

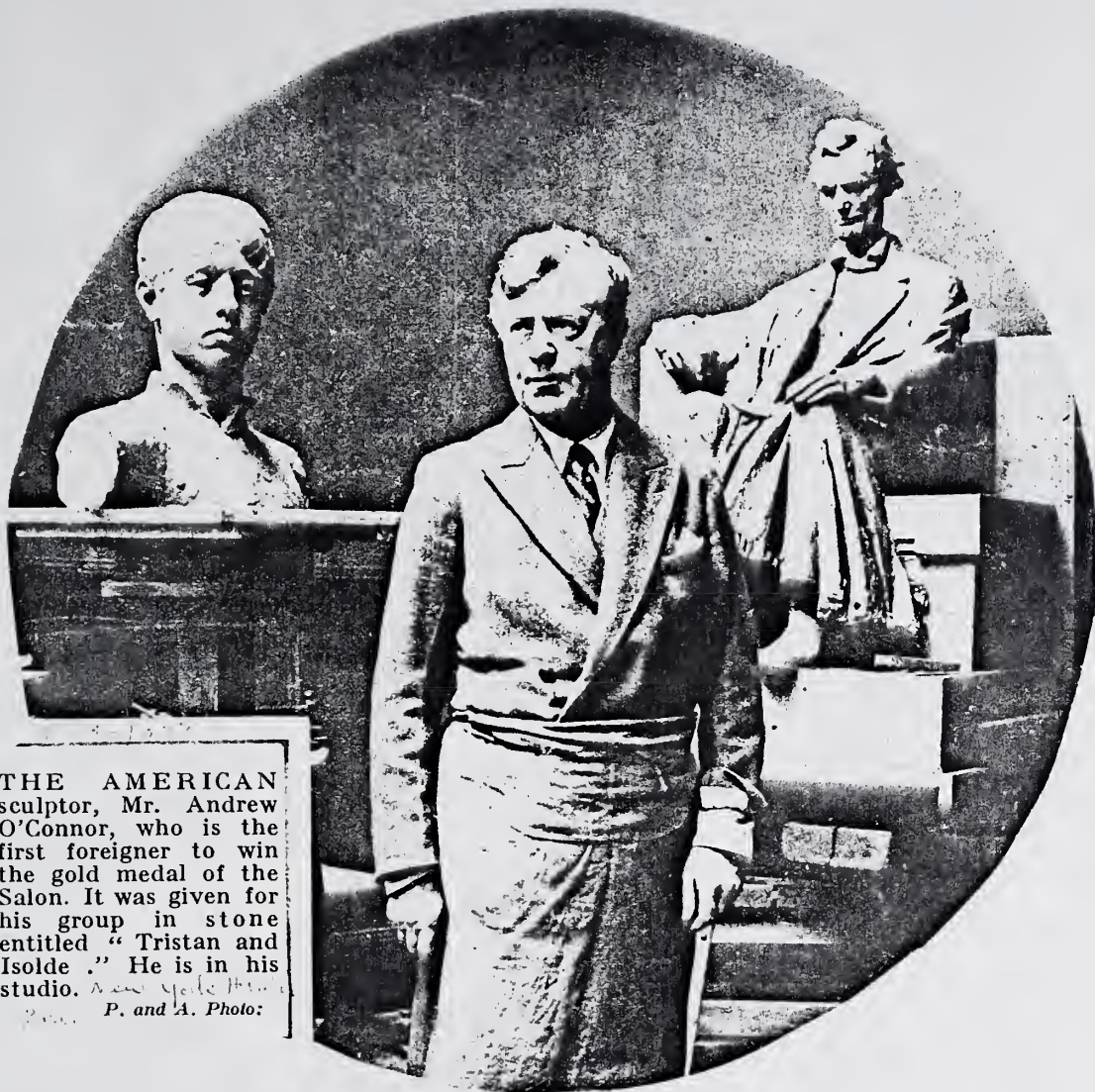
Wash. D. C.



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THE AMERICAN sculptor, Mr. Andrew O'Connor, who is the first foreigner to win the gold medal of the Salon. It was given for his group in stone entitled "Tristan and Isolde." He is in his studio. *New York Times*

P. and A. Photo:



Lincoln, the thinker. This sculptured figure of the Great Emancipator was executed by Andrew O'Connor for the grounds of the Rhode Island state capitol in Providence. It was exhibited at the spring salon in Paris.



NEW LINCOLN STATUE READY. The work of Andrew O'Connor, recently exhibited in Paris. It is for the grounds of the State Capitol, at Providence, R. I.

—A. P.

NATIVE OF WORCESTER, Andrew O'Connor, sculptor, has again received foreign acclaim and honor, this time one never before accorded an American. With honors from the United States and Europe already placing him among the great masters of the world, Andrew O'Connor again brings recognition to his native land as the only American sculptor represented in the National Gallery in London.

"Mother of Sorrows," his newest work of sculpture mastery, a bronze figure of a kneeling woman, has been accepted for permanent exhibition in the gallery at London. Although it is acknowledged a complete artistic conception it is but a replica of part of a great war memorial planned by O'Connor for erection at Washington, D. C. Another kneeling figure and a wounded soldier, not yet finished, will have a place in the completed carving.

In keeping with his intense Americanism he will give tribute to a countryman when his bust of Abraham Lincoln is unveiled in Providence, R. I., next fall. Of this man, O'Connor, St. Gaudens, master sculptor, said shortly before his death, "I am glad my mantle is to fall upon the shoulders of one so worthy of wearing it."

Friend of Jesuit Poet

Andrew O'Connor is, after all, a son of Worcester and Paxton, although his art has carried him abroad to receive honors rarely accorded American artists. One of his close friends is at Holy Cross college—Rev. Michael Earls, S. J., vice president of the college, poet, and friend of some of the greatest writers, musicians and artists on this continent and in Europe.

But this is a "different" sort of friendship. Something of it is demonstrated in the statue which he presented Rev. Father Earls seven years ago. A small, white marble replica of the central motif of the famous doorway of St. Bartholomew's church in New York, which he also designed and modeled, it rests upon a hillside at the college and there are grass-covered stone steps reaching up to its side for those who wish to see it. The figure of a drooping Christ upon the cross, with the sorrow-laden Madonna kneeling at His side, the little carved figure will some day rest in a niche in the wall of the chapel if present plans materialize. Tiny lights will present it to passers-by at evening.

At the time of his presentation of the carving, the artist said, "I have great affection for my friends at Holy Cross and gave them this marble because I thought they would like to have it."

It is, in reality, a token of his friendship for the vice president. At the time it was given, Father Earls wrote a five-stanza poem of which the carved figures were the subject, called "Defeat of Sorrow." The final verses say:

"Sorrow cannot take you
With his gold or dross,
Or his gloom of faces
Dreading gain or loss
For you know sure places
Underneath a cross."

There is a story that the real friendship between sculptor and Jesuit poet began when Mr. O'Connor invited a group of friends to his Paxton home to see his model of the group statue, "America," which is now in the central stairway at The Hague Peace Palace. While most of the visitors were inspecting the mysteries of construction, so goes the story, Father Earls stood in silent appreciation of the artistic merits of the creation and won the creator's respect and friendship.

The following letter was received earlier this month by Father Earls from the sculptor when first he knew of the honor accorded his "Mother of Sorrows." The Liberator to whom he refers was Daniel O'Connell, who incessantly agitated the cause of Irish freedom. He was considered the uncrowned king of Ireland and made



O'Connor's Abraham Lincoln which was recently exhibited at the Spring Salon in Paris.

his last Parliamentary appearance in 1847. He died at Genoa, 1847. The unveiling of the Lincoln bust he mentions was to take place at Providence on the grounds of the capitol yesterday. The ceremony was put off until fall, presumably to allow the sculptor to attend.

Writes From Paris

"It's a beautiful thing when one reads your poem," wrote O'Connor, "to see how firm is your faith and feel how strong and happy you are in it—and it's given you the power of music to sing in unison with the birds and to understand the language of the trees."

"My own life is made up of intense activity and things are happening so rapidly that I have barely the strength to keep up with them—my group of the 'Descent from the Cross' is now in the Salon as well as a complete model of my commemorative chapel—I've nearly finished a statue of the Holy Virgin and my 'Mother of Sorrows' has been bought and placed in the most important position of the National Gallery, London—this being the first statue by an American to be put in the National Gallery, and I've just been to Dublin to sign the contract for the bronze statue of the Liberator, Daniel O'Connell, to be unveiled there next year—just before the congress, where I hope we are going to see you. I wish I could come home for the unveiling of my Lincoln in Providence but I don't see how I can find the time. You may well believe it's the statue of the Liberator that's filling my mind at this moment—I couldn't ask for any subject or rite for one of my work that would stir me more. My wife and children join me in all best wishes to you."

Andrew O'Connor's children spent much of their early childhood in France and consequently had difficulty with the English language and thus it was they, too, became friends with their father's friend who speaks French so fluently. Today, Roderick and Petrico are on the road to success, Roderick particularly being ac-

claimed as a portrait painter. At 14 years of age, he painted a picture of Father Earls. This spring he sent the following note, scrawled in the jagged hand of the artist:

"I've been here in New York about a month. I like it very much and plan to stay. I would like to see you but do not know as yet when I will be getting up to Worcester but will try to take a little trip there soon. If you should come to New York please drop me a note."

Studied With Masters

Just a sketch about Andrew O'Connor as the Worcester boy who, while still a comparatively young man, as comparisons in the world of artists go, has achieved a success which has brought him world wide recognition. Born in Worcester, one of six children, he went to the public schools. When he was 17 years of age he went west. He became a protegee of Daniel C. French. In London he studied under John Singer Sargent, and in Paris, under Rodin.

His Lincoln's statue for Springfield, Ill., won a prize of \$50,000. His Boy Scout Memorial was the first to be erected to Theodore Roosevelt. His own four sons were the models. It now is in Glenview park, Chicago. His statue of Lafayette at Baltimore, Md., is regarded as an outstanding triumph of art. The Spanish-American soldier at Wheaton square is his work.

Of his triumphs on the continent: His Lincoln's bust, chiseled as a token of Anglo-American friendship and presented to London where it now rests at the Royal Exchange, won the Olympian prize of art from the French government for him. He was also made a member of the Legion of Honor. He was the first foreigner to be given the gold medal of the society of French Artists for his Tristram and Isolde carving. His busts of Robert Newman and "The Italian Girl" were purchased for the Luxembourg by the French government.

Tewfik Rushdi Bey, Turkish foreign minister, wrote and asked him to sculpture a statue of Kemal Pasha,

dictator, on horseback, to be placed in front of the Parliament building of the new capital. And this request came after a study of all the great European sculptors.

Worcester Telegram 5-31-31



**A STATUE OF THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR EXHIBITED IN
PARIS: ANDREW O'CONNOR,**

**American Sculptor, With His Statue of Abraham Lincoln, Which Is
to Be Placed in Front of the State Capitol in Providence, R. I.**

(Times Wide World Photos, Paris Bureau.)

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

CLARENCE E. SHERMAN, LIBRARIAN
BESS MCCREA, ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
LAURENCE M. SHAW, ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

July 12, 1930

Miss Ethel Henneford, Asst. Director,
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Miss Henneford:

I have your letter concerning Andrew
O'Connor's statue of Abraham Lincoln, which is
to be erected in Providence shortly. In order
that you may obtain accurate and more detailed
advice than is available in print at the moment,
I am referring your letter to an official of the
Gorham Company, as that firm has been charged
with the task of manufacturing this statue.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence E. Sherman
Librarian.



THE GORHAM COMPANY

BRONZE DIVISION



PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

July 18, 1930.

Ethel Henneford, Asst. Director,
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Madam:

The librarian of the Providence Public Library, Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, has referred to us your letter of July 9th with reference to the Andrew O'Connor Statue of Lincoln which is to be erected soon in Providence.

At the present time we are not in a position to divulge information concerning this statue, but we feel that you would be able to secure the information you desire by addressing a letter to the Secretary of State, Ernest Sprague, State House, Providence, R. I. The entire project is being handled by a State Commission at this time.

As one of the foremost bronze foundries of this country, we have, of course, in the past cast in bronze a number of Lincoln Statues; and, if in any way we can be of service to you in the matter of submitting information regarding other Lincoln Statues, please do not hesitate to write us as we shall be more than pleased to forward any information we have available.

Assuring you of our interest, we remain

Yours very truly,

THE GORHAM COMPANY
BRONZE DIVISION
E. W. Moore
E. W. Moore

EWM:NC
30-1480

ERNEST L. SPRAGUE
SECRETARY OF STATE



JOHN F. CLARK
DEPUTY
SYDNEY E. BENSON
SECOND DEPUTY

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
PROVIDENCE

July 31, 1930.

Ethel Henneford, Assistant Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Dept.,
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Madam:

In reply to yours of the 25th instant, we enclose herewith circular issued by the Committee on Subscriptions of the Lincoln Memorial Commission which was organized in January, 1914, and on the back of the same will be found the members of the Commission at that time. We also enclose herewith our present letterhead which gives the members and officers of said Commission, which was incorporated two or three years ago, many of the original members having been lost by death.

The erection of a memorial monument to Abraham Lincoln was conceived by the Department of Rhode Island, Sons of Veterans, and the Commission above referred to was organized by the undersigned and from January 14 to June, 1914, when the Salem fire occurred in Salem, Massachusetts, occasioning a great demand for public aid, the continuation of solicitation of subscriptions for the memorial was abandoned.

It is contemplated to erect this heroic sized bronze statue of Lincoln on the State House grounds by popular subscriptions. The \$9,000 received in the first four months of the campaign is the amount of the fund at the present time. The cost of modelling and casting the bronze was contracted for with Mr. Andrew O'Connor, whom we consider one of America's foremost artists and a New England man now resident in Paris, France, at \$20,000. An additional amount of probably \$10,000 will be required for setting this monument suitably on the State House grounds, grading, pedestal, dedication, etc. This money our Committee on Subscriptions hopes to receive by popular contributions from the people of the State, societies and the school children.

It is the intention of the Commission to dedicate this memorial on Memorial Day, May 30, 1931, if completed by that time. The statue has been already modelled in clay and will be shipped from Paris shortly to the founder who is to cast the same. Information relative to this memorial can probably be given you more fully in the Fall or early Winter.

Very truly yours,

Ernest L. Sprague
Secretary of State.

ERNEST L. SPRAGUE
SECRETARY OF STATE



JOHN F. CLARK
DEPUTY
SYDNEY E. BENSON
SECOND DEPUTY

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
PROVIDENCE

March 7, 1932.

Ethel Hemerford, Assit. Dr.,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Madam:

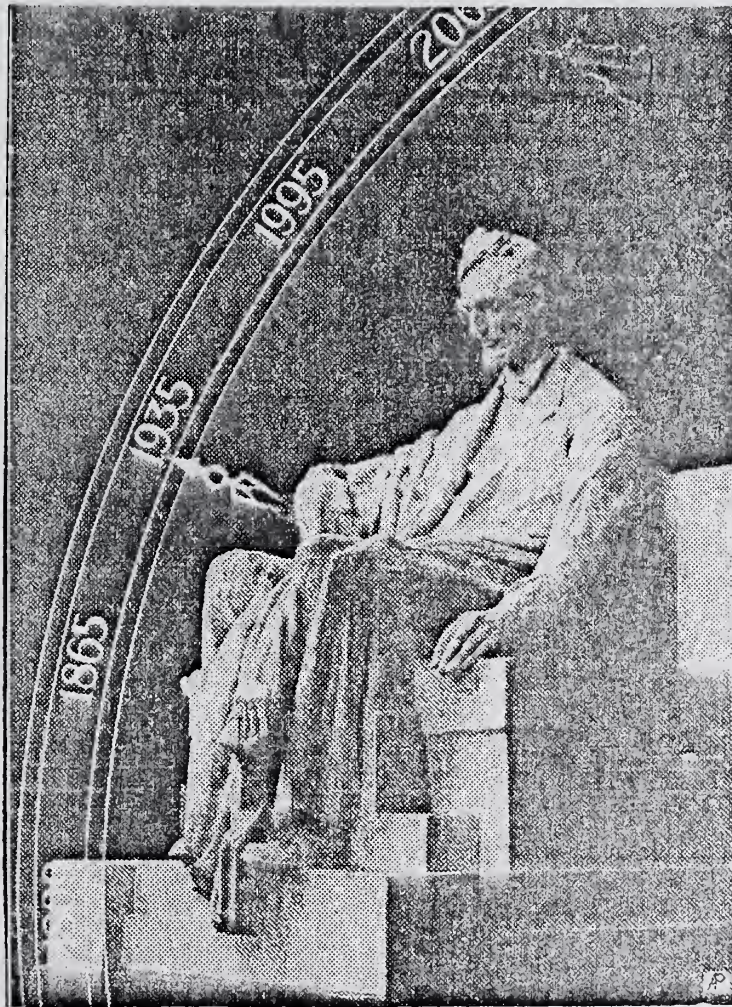
In reply to yours of the 4th instant, would say that the Lincoln Memorial Commission of Rhode Island, Inc. are contemplating the erection in the future of a heroic sized bronze of Abraham Lincoln. This memorial is to be erected on the State House grounds. This figure has been designed by Andrew O'Connor, now of Paris, France, and the figure has been cast and is at the present time at the foundry of the Gorham Manufacturing Company, Providence, R. I. Considerable funds have yet to be collected to complete the payment for this memorial before the same can be erected, and when conditions are favorable we believe the amount will be forthcoming.

No bust or other memorial of Lincoln, of importance, so far as we know has been purchased by any city or town in the state, or recently by any individual thereof. A number of years ago the Hon. Samuel P. Colt, President of the United States Rubber Co., and President of the Industrial Trust Company of Providence, purchased a heroic sized bust of Lincoln made of marble or some other composition, which bust was for many years on exhibition in the banking room of said Industrial Trust Company. For further information relative to this bust, which I have been told is or was for sale, can be obtained by communicating with Mr. Waldo Place, Industrial Trust Company, Providence, R. I.

Very truly yours,

Ernest L. Sprague
Secretary of State.

SPIRIT LIVES UNDIMMED.



Although seventy years have passed since Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, his spirit lives undimmed. The birthday of the Civil War President is being celebrated today. He was born in 1809.

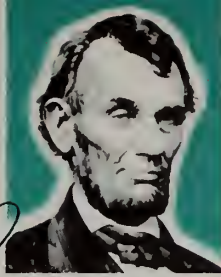
Indianapolis 5-12-95

LINCOLN STATUE PLANNED

**R. I. Memorial Commission to Meet
with Vanderbilt Monday. 1940**

The Lincoln Memorial Commission of Rhode Island, Inc., will meet in Governor William H. Vanderbilt's office Monday at 3 p. m. for its annual meeting. Plans will be discussed for completion and erection of a statue of Abraham Lincoln on the State House grounds.

Walter E. Ranger is chairman, George C. Clark is treasurer, and Mayor Ernest L. Sprague of Cranston is secretary.



Agency of
THE *Lincoln* NATIONAL
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

ITS NAME INDICATES
ITS CHARACTER

PAUL J. KIRBY, GENERAL AGENT
PHONE: GASPEE 4984

Home Office
FORT WAYNE, IND.

1104 INDUSTRIAL TRUST BLDG.
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

July 31, 1940

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director
The Lincoln National Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Doctor Warren:

In the course of business the other day I contacted a man who is anxious to obtain our co-operation in a project that may have a mutual interest for us. This gentleman was State Commander for the American Legion during the last year and has recently been appointed chairman of a committee to raise funds for the balance of the purchase price involved in a Lincoln monument.

During your visit here in 1939 you may recall my mention of a Lincoln memorial commission which had been formed in 1914 or 1915. This commission raised approximately \$12,000 of a needed \$22,000 to finance a bronze cast of Lincoln. The sculptor was a man by the name of O'Connor (?) and I think, originally came from Worcester, Massachusetts although he has resided in Paris for some time.

The memorial was cast by the Gorham Company and can be seen resting on a temporary foundation in the outside freight yard of their plant. There is a balance of about \$5,000 due the Gorham Company and about \$4,500 remaining unpaid to the architect. It seems incredible that this committee could exist for over twenty-five years and find themselves in this predicament.

The new chairman, Mr. Gordon Miller, has obtained the assurance of the local newspaper that they would co-operate in a publicity campaign to assist in raising the balance required so that this

- 2 -

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director

July 31, 1940

monument might be placed in its permanent location at the front entrance of the State Capitol in Providence.

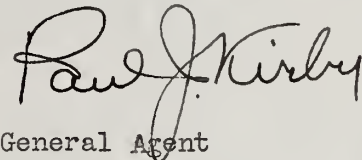
My purpose in writing this letter is to obtain such information as your organization may have in its files regarding the contemporary history of this committee and the memorial itself. Mr. Millar would also like to have a brief resume of the various Lincoln monuments that are located in various cities of the world together with any information that may be available as to the manner in which these monuments were financed by the communities involved.

I appreciate that this may be a little out of the ordinary but it is very likely that I shall serve on this committee with him and it may provide a mighty valuable source of contact for the future. There are a great many influential men interested in this movement but that makes it all the more difficult to realize why this situation has dragged along over so many years.

Any information that might be supplied along the foregoing lines will be deeply appreciated by all concerned and I have reason to believe tha proper credit will be given our organization for this assistance.

With kindest regards and hoping that this summer season proves very pleasant for you and your family, I am

Cordially yours,


General Agent

PJK:L



August 2, 1940

Mr. Paul J. Kirby
1104 Industrial Trust Bldg.
Providence, R. I.

My dear Mr. Kirby:

We will be happy indeed to cooperate to the very fullest extent in your Lincoln memorial commission and you will please find under separate cover a very beautiful souvenir booklet which you may present with your compliments to the Chairman. It gives pictures of all the heroic bronze statues of Lincoln in America.

I am also gathering some other material which may be of assistance and I am sure we can at least help to create some sentiment in favor of closing the contract.

As much as I personally knew Mr. G'Connor of course, I would very much like to see the work completed as I have known of it for many years.

Do not hesitate to ask for further favors if we think we can be of assistance. With kindest regards to you and your family, I am

Very truly yours,

LAW:ED

Director

SEVELLON BROWN
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER



STEPHEN A. GREENE
LIBRARIAN

THE JOURNAL BUILDING
PROVIDENCE 2, R. I.

The Providence Journal and The Evening Bulletin

May 14, 1947

Mr. Thomas I. Starr
Editorial Director
Michigan Bell Telephone Co.
Detroit, 26, Michigan

Dear Sir:

In response to your request I am enclosing, herewith, a photograph of the statue of Abraham Lincoln which appeared in the Evening Bulletin of April 18, last. Also, I am enclosing a story which appeared in the Providence Journal of February 12, 1946, dealing with the plans for the casting of this statue which was to have been placed on the State Capitol grounds here, but failure of the State Commission to obtain the necessary funds resulted in the abandonment of the plan. I might add that a bill authorizing an appropriation of \$25,000 for the purchase of a duplicate of this statue recently passed the lower branch of the legislature and is now before a Senate committee awaiting concurrent action.

I am informed by the Gorham Manufacturing Co. that they have a similar heroic-size statue of George Washington reposing in their storage yard. This statue was made for sale and there has been some discussion of a plan to have it placed on some public ground in Washington, D.C., but up to this time appropriate action by Congress has not been taken.

Very truly yours,

Stephen A. Greene
Librarian.

SAG:dp
Enc.

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MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

BELL TELEPHONE BUILDING

1365 CASS AVENUE

THE
Michigan Bell
THOMAS I. STARR
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

DETROIT 26, MICHIGAN

TELEPHONE CHERRY 9900

May 20, 1947

Dear Dr. Warren:

Arrived home Sunday morning after a most successful trip; successful as far as what I went for was concerned, but not too successful in picking up any good Lincolniana. Found the dealer you mentioned, but apparently you had cleaned him on your last trip down there.

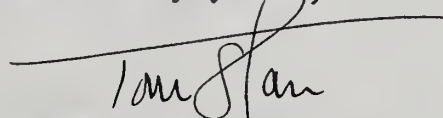
Found the attached in my mail, together with a good photo, when I returned. To keep your records straight, do you want to copy and return these to me?

When you do your LINCOLN LOPE story on "hidden" or "forgotten Lincolns", I'll add another one to the Providence story. Did you know that there is a beautiful Broglum head gathering dust in the sub-basement of the Detroit Institute of Arts? Have heard several reasons why it is there, but I still do not know the real reason, unless it is that our folks out at the Art Institute go in more for the undressed models such as those that Earl Mills, of Cranbrook, has put in front of the St. Louis Union Station. Pose Lincoln in a jock-strap and our Detroit artists would put it on display in a minute.

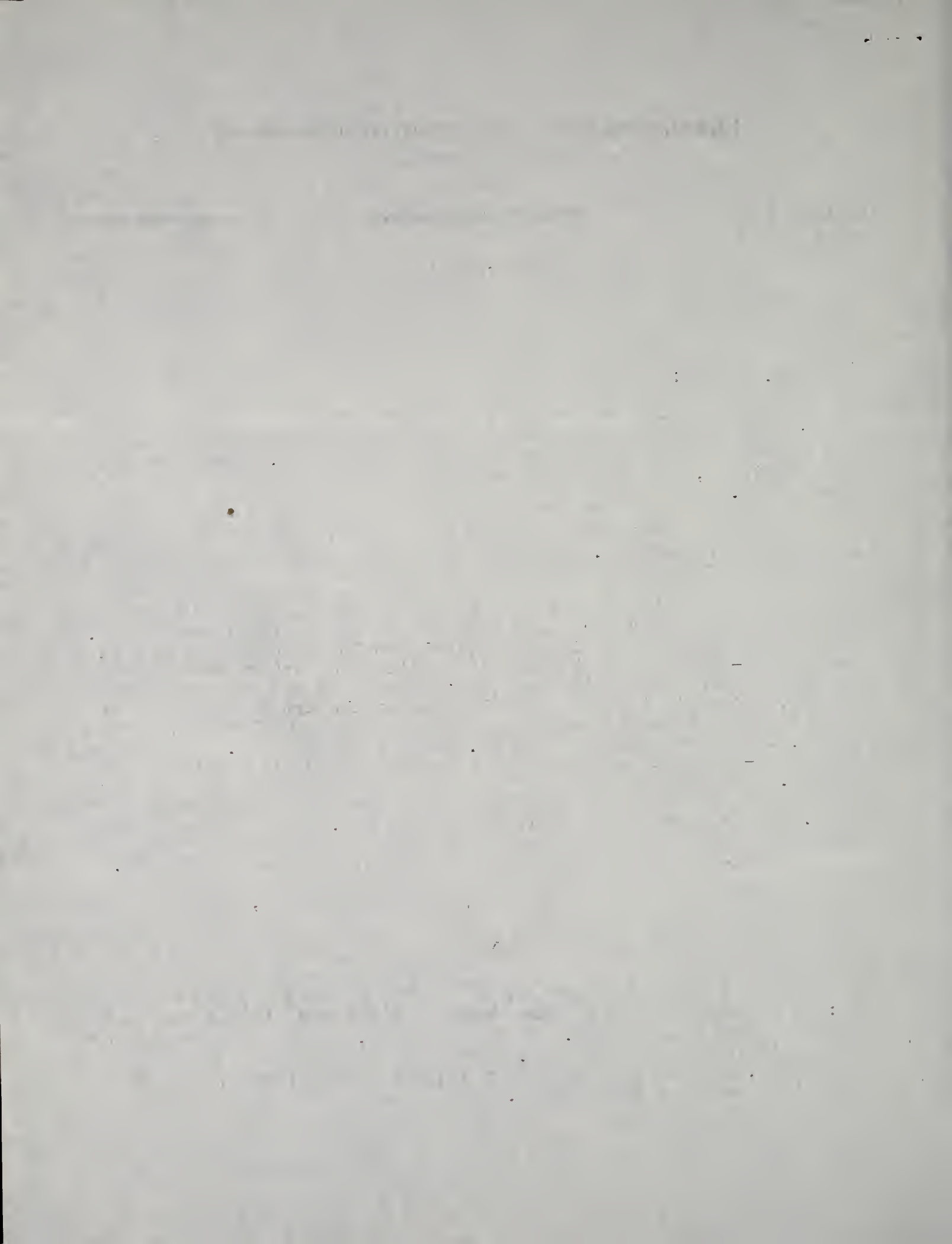
The Fort Wayne detour on my trip was the bright spot. My deep appreciation to you and to Tom.

Thanks a lot for everything, and all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,



PS: I am wondering if Bullard would be interested in these Providence things I have sent to you. If you think so, why not send copies of both clippings and the letter/ on to him? You have the photostat negatives, or will have them when you copy the attached, and extra positives would be easily made.



May 22, 1947

Mr. Thomas I. Starr
Michigan Bell Telephone Co.
Bell Telephone Bldg.
1365 Cass Avenue
Detroit, 26, Michigan

My dear Tom:

It was very kind of you to forward the letter from the Librarian of the Providence Journal and also the clipping giving further details about the removal of the statue. We shall want to prepare a Lincoln Lore shortly on this subject as I think it would be of considerable human interest.

It was a delight indeed to have you here and Tom and I both always look forward to the contacts that we have with you.

I am having photostatic copies of these made for myself and also having some made for Bullard and advising him that they are sent through your courtesy.

I hope I may have the pleasure of seeing you again if you are in Fort Wayne at any time and find it convenient to drop in upon us.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CM
L.A. Warren

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The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been named in the foregoing report, and who are now living in the United States, and who are known to the writer.

1. John Doe

In the report of the committee on the subject of the investigation of the activities of the persons named in the foregoing report, it is stated that the persons named in the foregoing report are now living in the United States, and are known to the writer.

It is also stated that the persons named in the foregoing report are now living in the United States, and are known to the writer.

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been named in the foregoing report, and who are now living in the United States, and who are known to the writer.

It is also stated that the persons named in the foregoing report are now living in the United States, and are known to the writer.

Very truly yours,

Witness

John Doe

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 946

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

May 26, 1947

THE STATUE AT FORT LINCOLN CEMETERY

Memorial Day preliminaries have recalled the proposed dedication on May 30, 1931, of a Lincoln statue on the State House grounds at Providence, Rhode Island. However, the state failed to acquire possession of the statue and now after resting for sixteen years in the foundry where it was cast it recently has been removed to Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Washington, D. C.

The Lincoln Foundation began gathering information in 1930 about sculptors of Lincoln to be used in its well known brochure "Heroic Bronze Statues of Abraham Lincoln." At that time correspondence with Ernest L. Sprague, Secretary of State for Rhode Island, indicated that a statue of Lincoln by Andrew O'Connor was already modeled, ready for casting, and when completed it was to be placed on the State House grounds at Providence. The last paragraph in his letter stated, "It is the intention of the Commission to dedicate this memorial on Memorial Day, 1931, if completed by that time." However the dedication never took place.

The Department of Rhode Island Sons of Veterans conceived the idea of a heroic bronze statue as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln and the Lincoln Memorial Commission of Rhode Island was organized in January, 1914. During the first four months of solicitation \$9,000 was received. Local conditions seemed to make it wise to abandon the campaign for a period and no further solicitation had been organized up to July 31, 1930. However, in the meantime one of America's foremost sculptors, Andrew O'Connor, had been commissioned to do the Lincoln. Further correspondence carried on by the Foundation with Mr. Sprague brought from him on March 7, 1932, this explanation for the failure to dedicate the statue: "The figure has been cast and is at the present time at the foundry of the Gorham Manufacturing Company in Providence. Considerable funds have yet to be collected to complete the payment for this memorial before it can be erected."

In 1940 there seemed to be a revival of interest in the placing of the statue and the members of the Lincoln Memorial Commission of Rhode Island Inc., met with the governor to make arrangements for the completion of the plans and erection of the statue. At this time the Foundation was again corresponding with Providence people interested in seeing the monument put in place and still again in 1946 contacts were made which it was hoped would encourage the final erection of the statue. An article did appear in the Providence Journal for February 12th that year which gave the financial status of the statue at that time. The sculptor had received \$9,000 and the Gorham Manufacturing Co. \$1,000 for casting, leaving a balance due the sculptor or his assignees \$4,500 and the amount in arrears to the Gorham Co. \$5,000.

Latest developments indicate that Rhode Island has not as yet given up hope of having the study by O'Connor placed on the State House grounds and a bill authorizing an appropriation of \$25,000 for the purchase of a replica of the statue has recently passed the lower branch of the Legislature. The statue is a massive study portraying a bearded Lincoln seated on a modernistic bench. He

appears thoughtful and in deep meditation. While the right forearm and hand rests gracefully on the high support of the bench the sculptor seems to have had some difficulty in finding a satisfactory resting place for the left hand. The first study shows it upon his knee but in the finished work the left hand rests by his side upon the seat of the bench. The figure is draped by a heavy cloak.

O'Connor's skill in sculptural art is not unknown to Lincoln students as his heroic standing Lincoln occupies a prominent spot in front of the State House at Springfield, Illinois. The editor of Lincoln Lore has always had more than a common interest in the Springfield and Providence statues because at the time he was attending High School in Holden, Massachusetts, the studio of Andrew O'Connor, was located almost directly opposite the school building. At least one and possibly two of the sculptor's sisters were in attendance there at the time. It was not unusual for the pupils, especially in the summer when much of the sculptor's work was done out of doors, to slip across the street and watch him at his work. A bronze memorial tablet on the school building was executed by him.

State Senator H. S. Magill of Princeton, Illinois, seems to have been the moving spirit in getting underway plans for a bronze statue of Lincoln to be dedicated during the centennial year of Illinois. A competitive plan was inaugurated in the selection of sculptors and fifty-two contestants, forty-nine in the general competition and three by special invitation by the commission, one of which was Andrew O'Connor then studying in Paris. Four of the competitors, including O'Connor, were invited to make enlarged copies of their studies. A study by Andrew O'Connor was eventually given the preference and his statue of Lincoln was dedicated on October 5, 1918.

Apparently the committee which had in charge the granting of the commission for the work contemplated a statue representing Lincoln at the time he left Springfield for Washington to be inaugurated. The press reports state with reference to the Lincoln bronze:

"He is aptly represented in the act of addressing his neighbors and friends from the rear of the train as he was leaving the old Wabash passenger station in Springfield" on his departure for Washington for the inauguration. The statue has always been referred to as the "Lincoln of the Farewell Address," a copy of the address in full appearing on the rear of the large marble slab which serves as a background. The historical accuracy of the statue is somewhat marred by the fact that Lincoln appears as a smooth-faced man when in reality he was wearing the heaviest beard in his whole career when he delivered the famous Farewell Address on February 11, 1861.

Although Lincoln had not started to grow a beard when he visited Providence, Rhode Island, in February, 1860, on that eventful New England trip, it is hoped that if a replica of the O'Connor statue is secured for the Rhode Island State House grounds excerpts from Lincoln's Providence speech will not be associated with the bearded Lincoln.

AIR MAIL

June 2, 1947

Superintendent
Fort Lincoln Cemetery
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Would you kindly advise whether or not the O'Connor
Lincoln statue was dedicated at the Cemetery on Memorial
Day if not, when it is to be dedicated.

Very truly yours,

LAW:mm

Director

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
WASHINGTON

1411 Mt. Vernon Blvd.(Apt.4),
Alexandria, Va.

November 7, 1950.

Dear Dr. Warren:

Enclosed I am sending you a photograph of the Lincoln Statue in Fort Lincoln Cemetery, placed on a temporary pedestal. Mr. L. Minear, the President of the Cemetery gave me two copies, one of which I wanted to send to you.

One of the men from the National Capital Parks who had made a tour up through New England brought us back a photograph of a Lincoln Statue in Lincolnville, Maine, on Route #1. It looks like the one by Charles Keck in front of the Court House in Wabash, Indiana. I wondered if it was not also a bronze statue and a replica of the one in Wabash. I don't believe it is on your list of 72 bronze statues.

I am having photographs made for you from my collection by two photographers. However, both are so swamped for work that they have not finished the copying I left with them. So far I have not received any of the photographs ordered from you. When you send them, would it be convenient for you to send them to my home address on the above letter rather than to the Lincoln Museum. At the Museum some one else always sees my mail before I do.

Sincerely yours,
Stanley W. McClure.
Stanley W. McClure.



DONOR ANDREW
PROVIDENCE, R.I. / WASHINGTON, D.C.

DRAWER 2/2

Scissors-0

